

Bill 20, CD1 Testimony

MISC. COM. 319



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WRITTEN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL Wednesday, June 3, 2020 10:00 A.M.

Bill 20 (2020): RELATING TO THE EXECUTIVE OPERATING BUDGET AND
PROGRAM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021.

Aloha Chair Anderson and Members of the City Council:

Trees for Honolulu's Future is a non-profit organization with a vision for an appropriately tree-shaded island that preserves and enhances our quality of life, especially in the face of climate change.

We are in strong support of the Department of Parks & Recreation proviso on Amendment List 4 regarding the Division of Urban Forestry. This proviso, sets aside at least \$200,000 for community engagement/outreach to encourage urban forests throughout O'ahu, operationalizes the critical strategies already set by the Council and the Administration.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need to create healthy, livable communities. Trees do just this by bringing multiple benefits, including, cooling, carbon sequestration, runoff prevention and reef protection, human well-being, economic vitality and safety.

Please pass Bill 20 with the above referenced proviso to assist the Division of Urban Forestry in engaging with local residents, homeowners, and businesses. The funds Council is directing for engagement will pay off dividends and generate a high return on investment far in excess of the amount spent.

In Kaimuki we are involved in a community effort to have residents "adopt" City-owned street trees, committing to water them until established. We hope to take lessons learned here and expand island wide. Efforts like this will result in a much better environment/ community with the above noted benefits. Through expanded outreach, residents will see the value of planting and maintaining trees, which will save the City money and create a better tomorrow.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Daniel Dinell
President

HONOLULU is HOT TREES are COOL

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